



Michael Madrid/The Coloradoan

GETTING READY: Angela Brown stocks cosmetics on the shelves of the new Mervyn's store at the Foothills Fashion Mall. Mervyn's is scheduled to open Sept. 29.

Mervyn's prepares Fort Collins opening

By J. LEWANDOWSKI
The Coloradoan

During the last week some 230 employees of Mervyn's have spent nearly 10,000 hours preparing for the opening of the new department store at the Foothills Fashion Mall.

A week ago the store was empty. Now it's packed with thousands of items, ranging from children's clothing to pillow cases. The workers have unloaded 40 trailers, unpacked an estimated 16,000 cartons of merchandise, hung up more than 100,000 different items and dressed 75 mannequins.

The store is scheduling a low-key opening on Sept. 29. A grand-opening celebration is set for Oct. 13.

With the addition of Mervyn's, the mall is again host to four major department stores. The others are Sears, May D&F and J.C. Penney. The Denver, another department store, was closed two years ago.

Mervyn's bills itself as a family

apparel department store and carries clothing, jewelry, accessories, housewares and cosmetics, explained Gary Wells, manager of the store. The plain outside of the building — beige brick — gives way to a colorful and contemporary interior. The store is one of the company's new designs and is quite different from its older store in the Denver area, Wells said.

Mervyn's is owned by Dayton-Hudson Co., of Minneapolis. Target, a discount department store, is also a subsidiary of Dayton-Hudson.

In 1988, Mervyn's sales were \$3.4 billion.

The Fort Collins store's permanent staff will be 125. About 800 people applied for jobs — about the number that was expected, Wells said.

"I'm real impressed with the employee's attitudes. I've been through six store openings and this has been the smoothest one," Wells said. "We're real excited."